

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
WETLANDS OF SPECIAL STATE CONCERN
METADATA

IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION

Citation

Originator: Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

Publication Date: July, 1997

Title: Wetlands of Special State Concern (WSSC)

Edition: 2

Geospatial Data Presentation Form: map

Publication Information

Publication Place: Annapolis, Maryland USA.

Publisher: Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Description

Abstract: In Maryland certain wetlands with rare, threatened, endangered species or unique habitat receive special attention. The Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) _____ identifies these Wetlands of Special State Concern (WSSC) and affords them certain protections including a 100 foot buffer from development. The Maryland Department of the Environment is responsible for identifying and regulating these wetlands. In general, the US Fish and Wildlife Service's National Wetlands Inventory wetlands provide the basis for identifying these special wetlands. Additional information, determined from field inspections, is used to identify and classify these areas.

Purpose: The Maryland Department of Natural Resources, as part of its natural resource management objectives, uses this WSSC data for site and regulatory application reviews, management plans and other uses. In 1988-89, Maryland DNR (then responsible for identifying and protecting WSSC's) contracted with Salisbury State University to produce Wetlands guidance maps that contained Wetlands of Special State Concern (WSSC). Digital WSSC files were produced as part of that effort. In 1997, with new WSSC's identified in COMAR, Maryland DNR began the process of creating an updated file and producing a new series of guidance maps.

Time Period of Content

Single Date/Time

Calendar Date: 199707

Currentness Reference: publication date

Status

Progress: In work

Maintenance and Update Frequency: As needed

Spatial Domain

Bounding Coordinates

West Bounding Coordinate: -079.4938

East Bounding Coordinate: -075.0450

North Bounding Coordinate: 39.77425

South Bounding Coordinate: 37.8713

Keywords

Themes

Theme Keyword Thesaurus: None

Theme Keyword: Wetlands of Special State Concern

Theme Keyword: WSSC

Theme Keyword: Wetlands

Place

Place Keyword Thesaurus: None

Place Keyword: Maryland

Place Keyword: MD

Place Keyword: Allegany

Place Keyword: Anne Arundel

Place Keyword: Baltimore

Place Keyword: Calvert

Place Keyword: Caroline

Place Keyword: Carroll

Place Keyword: Cecil

Place Keyword: Charles

Place Keyword: Dorchester

Place Keyword: Frederick

Place Keyword: Garrett

Place Keyword: Harford

Place Keyword: Howard

Place Keyword: Kent

Place Keyword: Montgomery

Place Keyword: Prince George's

Place Keyword: Queen Anne's

Place Keyword: St. Mary's

Place Keyword: Somerset

Place Keyword: Talbot

Place Keyword: Washington

Place Keyword: Wicomico

Place Keyword: Worcester

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Contact Organization Primary

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Hours of Service: 0800 - 1700 hours EST

Contact Person Primary

Contact Person: Lynn Davidson

Contact Organization: Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Contact Organization Primary

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Data Set Credit: Lynn Davidson with DNR's Forest, Wildlife and Heritage unit provided the source material, provided guidance and performed the final quality control review. Kevin Boone with DNR's Chesapeake and Coastal Watershed Service performed all data creation and correction functions. The Maryland Department of the Environment's Nontidal Wetlands and Waterways Division established and maintains the official list of Wetlands of Special State Concern.

Native Data Set Environment: All data creation and quality control work was done on PC's running NT Workstation version 4.0 using MicroImage Inc.'s MIPS software version 3.33 and TNTmips software versions 5.5 through 5.7.

Cross Reference: The US Fish and Wildlife Service's National Wetlands Inventory wetlands were generally the source for the WSSC polygons. Digital NWI wetlands files are available from NWI or Maryland DNR (contact the data custodian for further information). Also available from Maryland DNR is the Critical Area data set and metadata which defines some of the area in which WSSC's are delineated.

DATA QUALITY INFORMATION

Attribute Accuracy

Attribute Accuracy Report: Since this data set includes only one attribute (WSSC), there is little accuracy to report. All polygons are attributed. It is believed that all linear wetlands are attributed, but all line segments are not. Line segments belonging to polygons are not attributed.

Quantitative Attribute Accuracy Assessment

Attribute Accuracy Value: Unknown

Attribute Accuracy Explanation: There is no quantitative accuracy statement made.

Logical Consistency Report: Each WSSC is either a linear feature or a closed polygon. Dangles and overshoots were removed if found. There was no minimum WSSC area - all features on the source maps were created regardless of size. All polygons were classed. Final verification was completed by visual inspection only.

Completeness Report: The existing WSSC data was updated using the individual hard copy maps. After all updates were merged with the existing county file, each county file was visually inspected against the source maps for completeness.

Positional Accuracy

Horizontal Positional Accuracy

Horizontal Positional Accuracy Report: The data is considered map accurate at a scale of 1:24,000. Operator "best judgement" was used concerning the positional accuracy of manually generated WSSC features. There were no definitive assessments made to

determine a quantitative measure of the positional accuracy.

Lineage

Source Information

Source Citation

Source Scale Denominator: 24000

Type of Source Media: Magneto-optical disk

Source Time Period of Content

Source currentness Reference: publication date

Source Contribution: Wetlands of Special State Concern edition 1

Source Information

Source Citation

Source Scale Denominator: 24000

Type of Source Media: paper

Source Time Period of Content

Source currentness Reference: publication date

Source Contribution: The updated Wetlands of Special State Concern were identified on zerographed copies of 7.5' quadrangle maps.

Process Step

Process Description: In 1988-89, Maryland DNR contracted with Salisbury State University to produce Wetlands guidance maps that contained Wetlands of Special State Concern. Digital WSSC files were produced as part of that effort. No written documentation exists for that data set. In 1997, DNR obtained updated WSSC data and began the process of updating the original data files. The update process consisted of three distinct phases: 1) making the original digital file (edition 1) match the Guidance Maps, 2) making corrections to the file, and 3) adding the updated WSSC's.

Phase 1 was necessary because the digital files used to create the Guidance maps were not available. An earlier, draft version was the only one available. Those files were created in MicroImage Inc's DOS MIPS (RVF format) version 3.33. Each file was in Maryland State Plane 1927 feet. Each Guidance Map (7.5' quad size) was reviewed and the digital file (also 7.5' quad size) edited such that the linear and polygon WSSC features were as identical as possible between the two.

Wherever possible, the NWI wetlands polygons were used as the source for the WSSC. In some cases, manual digitizing was required. Only on-screen digitizing methods were employed and operator "best judgement" was used to determine the level of agreement between the map and the digital product. At the end of this phase, each quad-sized digital file agreed with each Guidance Map.

Phase 2 consisted of reviewing each Guidance Map for consistency with the current WSSC's. In some cases, the map was found to be in error. Each quad-sized WSSC file (Maryland State Plane 1927 feet) was then edited using MicroImage Inc.'s DOS MIPS version 3.33 based on instructions from the reviewer. At the end of this phase, each quad-sized digital file was consistent with the official WSSC list except for WSSC's within the Maryland's Critical Area (see the Critical Area data set and metadata).

Phase 3 consisted of adding the Critical Area WSSC's to the digital files. The DOS MIPS RVF files were imported into MicroImage Inc's TNTmips version 5.5 (the current version in use is 5.7 beta) and reprojected to Maryland State Plane 1983 meters. A county-sized NWI file was used as the basis for delineating the new WSSC features, which were provided on zerographed copies of 7.5' quadrangle maps. Wherever possible, the NWI wetlands polygons were used as the source for the WSSC. In some cases, manual digitizing was required. Only on-screen digitizing methods were employed and operator "best judgement" was used to determine the level of agreement between the map and the digital product. All WSSC features from the county-sized file (containing the new WSSC's) and each quad-sized file (containing all the previous WSSC's) were extracted and placed in a new county-sized file. These data were then visually inspected on-screen for consistency with the Critical Area WSSC source maps. Any necessary corrections were made. When completed, the county files were merged into a statewide file and both the county files and statewide files were prepared for distribution. The statewide file is distributed as a DLG 3 Optional file format in Maryland State Plane 1983 meters. The county files are distributed for the Maryland Technology Toolbox as ARC Export (E00) files in Maryland State Plane 1927 feet with the exception of Montgomery County (Maryland State Plane 1983 feet) and Baltimore City (Maryland State Plane 1983 meters).

Process Date: 199707

Process Contact

Contact Information

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Hours of Service: 0800 - 1700 hours EST

SPATIAL DATA ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

Direct Spatial Reference Method: Vector

SPATIAL REFERENCE INFORMATION

Horizontal Coordinate System Definition:

Planar:

Grid Coordinate System:

Grid Coordinate System Name: State Plane Coordinate System 1927

SPCS Zone Identifier: 1900

Map Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic

Standard Parallel: 38.3000000000

Standard Parallel: 39.4500000000

Longitude of Central Meridian: -77.0000000000

Latitude of Projection Origin: 37.8333333333

False Easting: 800000.0000000000

False Northing: 0.0000000000

Planar Coordinate Encoding Method: coordinate pair

Coordinate Representation:

Abscissa Resolution: 1.000000000 foot

Ordinate Resolution: 1.000000000 foot

Planar Distance Units: U.S. survey feet

Geodetic Model:

Horizontal Datum Name: North American Datum of 1927

Ellipsoid Name: Clarke 1866

Semi-Major Axis: 6378206.4

Denominator of Flattening Ratio: 294.98

Grid Coordinate System

Grid Coordinate System Name: State Plane Coordinate System 1983

SPCS Zone Identifier: 1900

Map Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic

Standard Parallel: 38.3000000000

Standard Parallel: 39.4500000000

Longitude of Central Meridian: -77.0000000000

Latitude of Projection Origin: 37.6666666667

False Easting: 400000.0000000000

False Northing: 0.0000000000

Planar Coordinate Encoding Method: coordinate pair

Coordinate Representation:

Abscissa Resolution: 1.000000000 foot

Ordinate Resolution: 1.000000000 foot

Planar Distance Units: meters

Geodetic Model:

Horizontal Datum Name: North American Datum of 1983

Ellipsoid Name: Geodetic Reference System 80

Semi-major Axis: 6378137

Denominator of Flattening Ratio: 298.257

ENTITY AND ATTRIBUTE INFORMATION

Detailed Description

Entity Type

Entity Type Label: Wetlands of Special State Concern

Entity Type Definition: wetlands with rare, threatened, endangered species, unique habitat or other special concern. Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) _____

Entity Type Definition Source: Maryland Department of the Environment

Attribute

Attribute Label: CLASS1

Attribute Definition: Class or attribute of the polygon or linear WSSC feature.

Attribute Definition Source: Maryland Department of the Environment

Attribute Domain Values

Enumerated Domain

Enumerated Domain Value: WSSC

Enumerated Domain Value Definition: Wetland of special state concern

Enumerated Domain value Definition Source: Maryland Department of the Environment

DISTRIBUTION INFORMATION

Distributor

Contact Information

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Contact Organization Primary

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Hours of Service: 0800 - 1700 hours EST

Resource Description: Wetland of Special State Concern

Distribution Liability: This data set is governed by a license agreement. Please contact the data custodian for distribution information.

Standard Order Process

Non digital Form: Paper maps are available from the distributor for \$20.00 each. The scale is 1:63360 in most cases and are approximately 3' by 4' in size and contain Wetlands of Special State Concern, National Wetlands Inventory wetlands, and watersheds.

Digital Form

Digital Transfer Information

Format Name: ARCE (ARC/INFO Export format)

Format Information Content: These data are normally distributed in Maryland State Plane 1927 feet. This is true for data released through Maryland's Technology Toolbox with the exception of Montgomery County, which is Maryland State Plane 1983 feet, and Baltimore City which is Maryland State Plane 1983 meters.

File Decompression Technique: No compression applied

Transfer Size (MB):

Digital Form

Digital Transfer Information

Format Name: DLG (Digital Line Graph)

Format Information Content: These data distributed in Maryland State Plane 1983 meters.

File Decompression Technique: No compression applied

Transfer Size (MB):

Digital Transfer Option

Offline Option

Off-line Media: CD-ROM

Recording Format: ISO 9660

Compatibility Information: Any CD-ROM device that can read an ISO 9660 created disk.

Fees: \$65.00 per CD-ROM

Ordering Instructions: Contact distributor for order form and license agreement

Technical Prerequisites: Data is in "generic" file formats (E00 and DLG). User must be familiar with importing data into desired GIS software package.

Available Time Period

Time Period Information

Range of Dates/Times

Beginning Date: 199707

METADATA REFERENCE INFORMATION

Metadata Date: 19970716

Metadata Future Review Date: As needed

Metadata Contact

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Contact Facsimile Telephone: 410-260-8759
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Hours of Service: 0800 - 1700 hours EST
Metadata Standard Name: FGDC Content Standards for Digital Geospatial Metadata
Metadata Standard Version: 19940608

Appendix A

Wetlands of Special State Concern Jurisdiction Abbreviations

AA Anne Arundel County
AL Allegany County
BA Baltimore County
BC Baltimore City
CA Calvert County
CE Cecil County
CH Charles County
CL Carroll County
CO Caroline County
DO Dorchester County
FR Frederick County
GA Garrett County
HA Harford County
HO Howard County
KE Kent County
MO Montgomery County
PG Prince George's County
QA Queen Anne's County
SM St. Mary's County
SO Somerset County
TA Talbot County
WA Washington County
WI Wicomico County
WO Worcester County